

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,508,021 to Grinstaff et al. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but are noted to be allowable. Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by the combined teaching of United States Patent No. 5,508,021 to Grinstaff et al. and Wang (XP-002125856). Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 2 therein. Due to the amendment to Claim 1, Claims 7 and 8 now depend from allowable intervening claims. None of the amendments constitute new matter in contravention of 35 U.S.C. § 132. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

First, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indicated allowability of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,508,021 to Grinstaff et al. Applicant respectfully submit that this rejection is obviated by the above amendments.

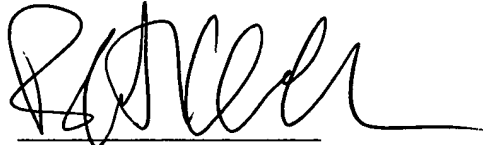
Applicants have cancelled claim 2 so as to incorporate the subject matter thereof into intervening base claim 1. Applicants submit that Claims 7 and 8 now depend from allowable claim 1. As Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, and the remaining claims all depend therefrom, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 3-8 are patentably distinct over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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In view of the amendments and remarks hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 and 3-8, is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested.

Any questions the Examiner has with the foregoing may be directed to Applicants' undersigned counsel at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Chisholm', written over a horizontal line.

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